Slide-A-Shelf
Storage and Organization Made Easy!™

MEASURING INSTRUCTIONS *

How To Accurately Measure Your Cabinets for Made-To-Fit Slide-Outs

Measuring your cabinets for perfect fitting slide-out cabinet organizers is easy to do. These instructions are detailed and comprehensive...but simple-to-follow. Feel free to print out for quick reference.

You can use this guide to measure your cabinets for our standard made-to-fit slide-out shelves and our made-to-fit specialty items (Double Dek™ System, Multi-Tier Towers, Sink Caddy and Trash/Recycle centers).

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

You will need a good sturdy tape measure that is accurate. Many tapes with excessive use get damaged and do not provide accurate/true dimensions. We recommend a stiff metal tape that is 1/2" or even 3/4" wide with at least 1/8" marked increments. A flashlight will also be invaluable to look for hidden obstacles in your cabinets. There is usually no need to empty cabinets to get accurate measurements, but you will definitely want to shift items a bit to be certain you are recording the correct dimensions and checking for obstacles not visible due to cabinet's contents. These include gas and/or water lines, valves, electrical conduits, braces etc.

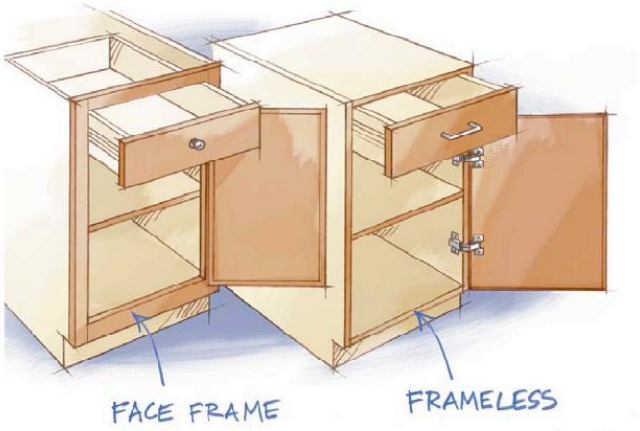
IMPORTANT NOTE: OUR SLIDE-OUTS ARE DESIGNED TO ATTACH TO THE BASE/ FLOOR OF YOUR CABINETS AND/OR TO THE EXISTING FULL SHELVES YOU CURRENTLY STORE ITEMS ON. *Typically this is referred to as "bottom-mounting." If a shelf in your cabinet does not exist you must add one. Or if you have a "half-shelf" in the back of your cabinet for any level, you can to extend this shelf or replace it all together with additional shelving material that can be purchased and cut-to-fit at your local hardware/home center.* ***See our FAQ for more details.***

CABINET STYLE:

For the most part there are two (2) different styles of cabinets in most homes. When measuring, this will be an important difference to take note of. In either case the *existing shelves* in the cabinets should be at least 1/2" thick...5/8" or 3/4" is ideal.

FRAMED -

The traditional "framed cabinet" typically has a wood border that *frames* the opening of the cabinet *(see sketch).* Sometimes in instances where the opening is very wide (28 to 42 inches) it will include a vertical center post, commonly called a 'stile', which divides the opening into two separate openings, usually with a door for each side closing in the center onto this *center post.*



! ***IMPORTANT:*** *If your 'clear' cabinet opening is wider than 36 inches without a center post, you will require two (2) slide-out shelves mounted side-by-side, one behind each door. (36 inches is the widest slide-out shelf we can make!) In this case measure the entire 'clear' opening, then, and only in this case, subtract 1/2 inch from your measurement and divide by 2. The resulting dimension is the 'clear' width of the opening behind each door.*

If your cabinets are the framed style, the door hinges will either be attached to the front OUTSIDE surface of the frame or the INSIDE frame edge...and in some cases both. The hinges may not be visible from the outside when the doors are closed and may protrude into the opening....thus you will likely have to measure to them.

! ***IMPORTANT NOTE:*** *With a framed cabinet it is VERY common that the opening of the wood frame is narrower than the inside wall-to-wall compartment. For a slide-out shelf you ALWAYS want to measure the* ***'clear width of the framed opening at the narrowest point'*** *... NOT the interior wall-to-wall dimension. If the inside edge of the door when opened reduces the size of the opening then take your measurement from the edge of the door not the frame.*

Occasionally (both style) cabinets may have internal adjustable shelf systems utilizing metal strips, called 'standards,' which are secured to each wall front and back using metal clips for the shelf to rest on and can be adjusted up or down. For framed cabinets these standards rarely impinge on the clear cabinet opening.

** Be sure to review the Common Measuring Pitfalls section below before submitting/selecting the dimensions of your cabinet opening(s) and depth(s).*

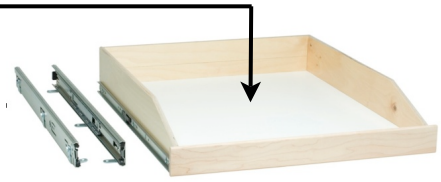
FRAMELESS -

The other style of cabinet *(sketch on previous page)* growing in popularity in the U.S. is the *"frame-less"* (typically referred to as a European cabinet or *Euro-Style*). In most cases, but not all, this style cabinet offers shelf levels that rest on steel or plastic pegs or clips inserted into evenly spaced holes drilled into the interior walls of the cabinet. These allow the homeowner to adjust the shelves up and down. THIS HOLE SYSTEM IS ALSO USED IN SOME TRADITIONAL FRAMED CABINETRY. **To measure a *single door frameless* cabinet properly, see the Exception box below!**

The door hinges for this style cabinet are secured to the inside walls of the cabinet and the back of each door and are almost always NOT visible when the doors are closed.

RECOMMENDATION: To maximize your slide-out organizer width be sure and review Tip #6 of Common Measuring Pitfalls.

HOW TO MEASURE: For the Slide-A-Shelf™ standard 4" high slide-out shelves you will be taking and recording two (2) measurements/dimensions for each slide-out to be ordered: **1** - the *'clear WIDTH of the opening at the narrowest point'* and **2** - the *'unobstructed interior cabinet DEPTH.'*



For the 8" high slide-outs and the Specialty Organizer Items ***(2 & 3 Tier Towers, Sink Caddy unit*, Double Dek™ and the Trash/Recycle Centers)*** *you will be taking and recording three (3)* measurements/dimensions for each location to be ordered: **1** - the *'clear WIDTH of the opening at the narrowest point,'* **2** - the *'unobstructed interior cabinet DEPTH'* and **3** - the '*HEIGHT of the opening'* considering any obstacles that may impact the entire interior space the organizer will occupy.

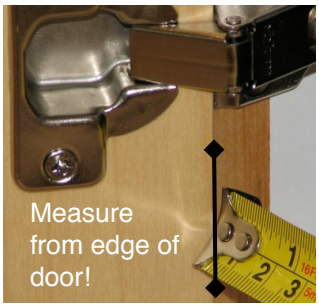
***Be certain you have at least 9" of clear space to the right or left of the sink's P-trap and NO obstacles on back wall.**

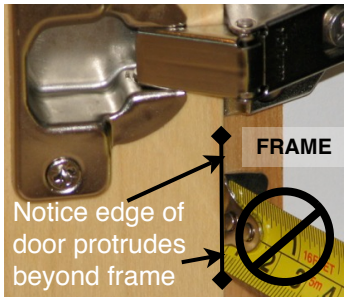
We will manufacture your slide-outs to the exact dimensions of the opening you provide...with a approximate 1/8 inch clearance of the opening. During the production process the depth of each organizer will be adjusted to the nearest inch to maximize extension. The glide rails are manufactured and come every 2 inch increments in length.

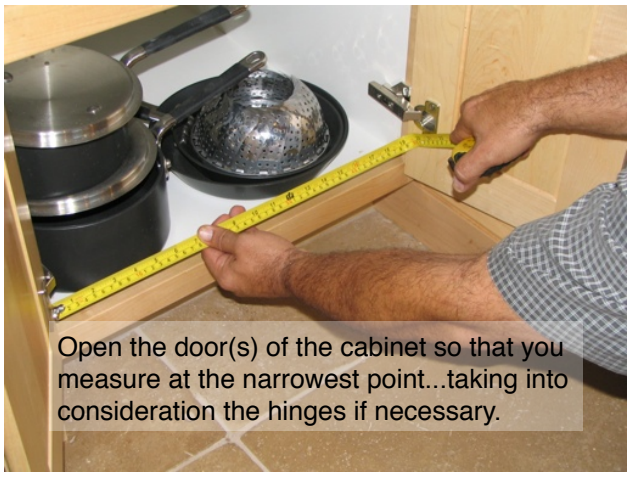
The process for measuring framed or frame-less cabinets is virtually the same. A few differences are noted below.

MEASURING CLEAR THE WIDTH OF THE CABINET OPENING -

First open the door of your cabinet to the position whereby the opening is at it narrowest. ***With some hinge styles the vertical sides of the doors (at the hinged side) will actually protrude into the opening making the overall width of the opening slightly narrower.*** *(See photo comparison below left for measurement point.)*





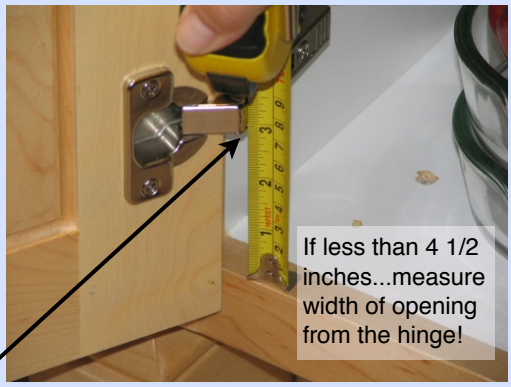


NOTE: You may have to open the door more the 90 degrees. See the Common Measuring Pitfalls guide for what to do when the door won't open at least 90 degrees due to the door knob or door striking an adjacent cabinet or appliance.

NOTE: It is important to measure each location separately for each slide-out.

At this time you will need to take note of where the door hinge hardware is located and whether your need to measure from any part of the hinge mechanism or can ignore the hinge(s) altogether when measuring the width of the opening.

First you need to measure from the cabinet floor/frame or the existing shelf surface up to the bottom of whichever part of the hinge protrudes the furthest <u>into</u> the opening...i.e. the hinge "elbow." *(If your hinge style is the type mounted on to the outside front of the cabinet and is visible when the door is closed, you can skip this step.)*

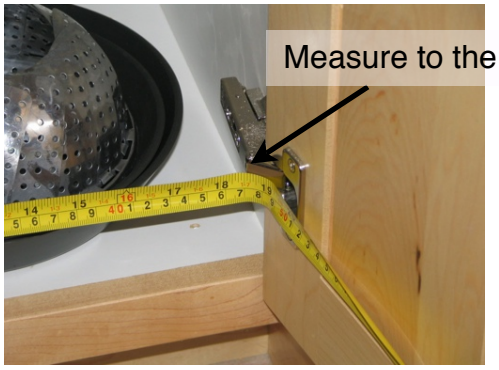


<u>IF THIS MEASUREMENT IS MORE THAN 4 1/2 INCHES, THE HINGE WILL NOT BE IN THE WAY</u> for any slide-out shelf...and for any specialty item as long as the hinge elbow does not protrude into the opening more than one-half an inch. Under these conditions the hinge will not need to be taken into consideration when measuring. *<u>You can measure from the edge of the door to maximize the width of the shelf.</u>*

Please see Tip #6 of the Common Measuring Pitfalls guide for more information on how to maximize space with concealed hinges.

Now take your tape measure and measure the "clear" width of the opening AT THE NARROWEST POINT. Per the above instructions if your hinge height is less than 4 1/2 inches you will in most cases (see Tip #6) start with the end of your tape measure touching the part of the hinge that protrudes the furthest into the opening. Pull the tape measure across the opening to the other side...noting the exact measurement...at the narrowest point. Round down to the nearest 1/8 inch. In the case of double doors this measurement could be hinge-to-hinge or edge/corner of door on one side to the edge/corner of door on the other side.

If your cabinets use the "traditional" style surface mounted hinges that are visible when the door(s) is(are) closed, your measurement will likely be from door frame to door frame.

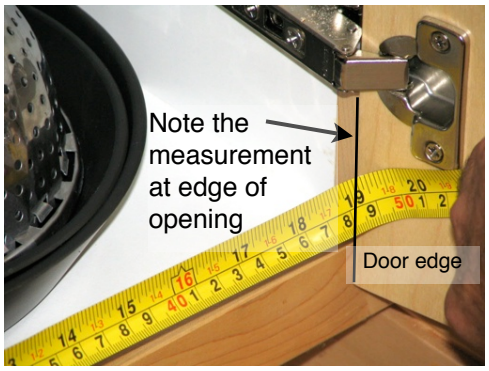


If the height of the hinges of your cabinet are less than 4 1/2" (see Tip #6) from the floor or shelf surface...measure the width of the opening from the point of the hinge that protrudes the furthest into the opening to the other side. In the case of double doors it would be hinge-to-hinge. For a single door cabinet it will be either from the hinge to the edge of the frame or the interior side wall if a frame-less cabinet. *(See Exception point below.)*

! ***EXCEPTION: For frame-less (Euro-style box) cabinets that have only a single door, hinged on the left or right, <u>and ONLY in this case</u>, you will need to subtract 1/4" from the "clear" width measurement you take before submitting your dimensions/order. This also applies X2 if you are measuring a compartment without doors or in the rare case you are actually measuring an opening that is actually wall-to-wall with no doors in the way.***

<u>This extra deduction allows for the hardware that is attached to the cabinet rails to fit within the opening!</u>

If the hinges of your cabinet are 4 1/2" or greater from the floor or shelf surface (see Tip # 6 on the last page)...measure from left to right edge of the opening.



! ***IMPORTANT TIP:*** *We manufacture the width of slide-outs to the opening of your cabinets in 1/8 inch increments so please round down to the nearest 1/8 inch. e.g. 23 5/16" becomes 23 1/4" or 16 3/16" becomes 16 1/8" .*

MEASURING THE INTERIOR DEPTH OF YOUR CABINET -

For the depth measurement you will want to "clear a path" from the front to back of the cabinet(s) for your tape measure, and we recommend measuring both the right and the left side of the cabinet taking the smaller dimension. *It is usually not necessary to empty your cabinets.*

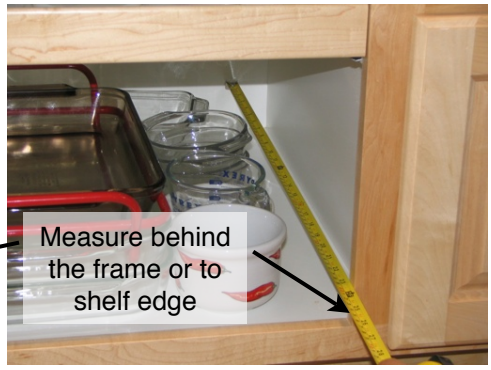
Measure from the back wall or "front" of any obstacle in the back of your cabinet that will limit the depth of the slide-out...to the back of the face frame (at the front of the cabinet) **OR** the front edge of the shelf (which should be right behind the door when closed). *Round down to the nearest 1/8 inch as well and record this measurement.*

NOTE: If necessary you can 'overhang' a slide-out one inch from the front edge of an existing shelf if it is set back from the front of the cabinet. Cabinet makers do this to sometimes accommodate door racks and other door accessory products.

The minimum depth we manufacture is 16 3/4 inches (shelves) and the maximum is 24 inches (all products). The glide rail systems come in two inch increments and we will adjust the overall depth to one inch increments so your slide-out will clear the door and not strike the back wall of your cabinet when pushed in. See minimum and maximum specs on-line.

! ***IMPORTANT TIP:*** *Be certain to measure each and every location you plan to install a slide-out in. DO NOT assume the depths are the same. Be aware that often times there is a vertical or horizontal wood brace or valve, pipe or electrical conduit box that is secured to the back wall and must be the point you measure from for a proper fitting shelf.*

Measure on the left side



...and measure on the right.

Once you have measured both sides...use the smaller dimensions when placing your order.

MEASURING THE HEIGHT OF YOUR CABINET OPENING -

A height measurement is necessary for all but our standard 4" slide-out shelves. For those, just be certain you have at least 5" of vertical space for the slide-out to be installed. *We recommend at least 7" for an easier installation. This allows for a screwdriver to fit in the compartment when securing the interior cabinet rails during installation.*

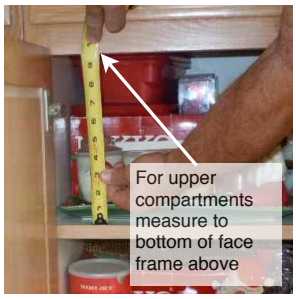
Now, to be certain the slide-out cabinet organizer you order will fit into the complete cabinet compartment you will first need to visibly inspect the interior of the cabinet for obstacles that may prevent maximizing the available storage space and/or interfere with the organizer. These obstacles can be electrical, gas or water lines (e.g. water supply to a refrigerator) run inside a cabinet on the side(s), top and back wall...and also be, outlets, stove venting, plumbing, faucets, OR even an existing shelf level that will need to be removed to permit the organizer to occupy all maximum cubic storage capacity.

Just imagine you will be sliding a 3 dimensional cardboard box into the cabinet compartment. The box measurements would have to fit inside the opening almost exactly...*width and height and available depth*...and allow for the cabinet door to close! These would be the measurements you take, record and provide to us.

! ***IMPORTANT NOTE:*** It is possible you will desire to install one of our multi-tier towers, trash unit or Double Dek™ System into a cabinet or cabinet cavity but an existing shelf is in the way. Don't fret! In many newer cabinets the interior shelves rest on pegs and can be easily removed. However, in cabinets where this(these) shelf(ves) are fixed you will need to 'forcefully' remove the shelf prior to installation. In most cases a shelf is not structural and can be removed without impacting the integrity of the cabinet...especially 2nd level shelving in base cabinets under a countertop.

Just be sure to measure the height as if the shelf was not there. We will cover it's removal in our installation guide.

To properly measure the full height clearance of a cabinet's opening, measure from the bottom frame to the top both on the right and left and use the shorter measurement. If the thickness of the base shelf protrudes above the bottom frame...measure from it.



If you are going to fit an organizer into a shelf compartment, *be certain the height clearance is at least as tall as the minimum height required for the particular organizer you are ordering.* Measure from the shelf surface to the shelf or top frame above.

IN SUMMARY -
If you have ever spent any time with an accomplished carpenter you would have heard this old adage: *If you don't get anything else hear this, when working with wood* ***"measure twice...cut once!'"*** We will be doing the "cutting" for you so double check your measurements before ordering.

Remember, even if your cabinets do not look quite like the ones in these photos the measuring steps and principles are the same. We only need two (2) measurements...the clear width of the opening at the narrowest point where the slide-out will be installed and the unobstructed interior depth...but per the above we'll need all three (3) measurements for our made-to-fit Specialty Cabinet Organizer items, including one for the height clearance. Our goal is to manufacture for you the *perfect fitting* slide-out!

If you have any questions you may call our Customer Service Department. ***We can help even if once you receive your items you discover you made a measuring error!***

COMMON MEASURING PITFALLS:

Here are some common things folks miss when measuring their cabinets for made-to-fit slide-out shelves.

1. The existing shelf and cabinet base could be warped or the base of the cabinet could be recessed down below the front frame. In either case you may need to do some 'shimming' with thin paneling material during the installation of your shelves.

2. On occasion an obstacle (conduit, electrical box, valve, brace etc.) inside the cabinet may force you to record a dimension smaller then the actual opening or depth. If this obstacle is in the back corner, you will have to decide whether to adjust the width or the depth measurement.

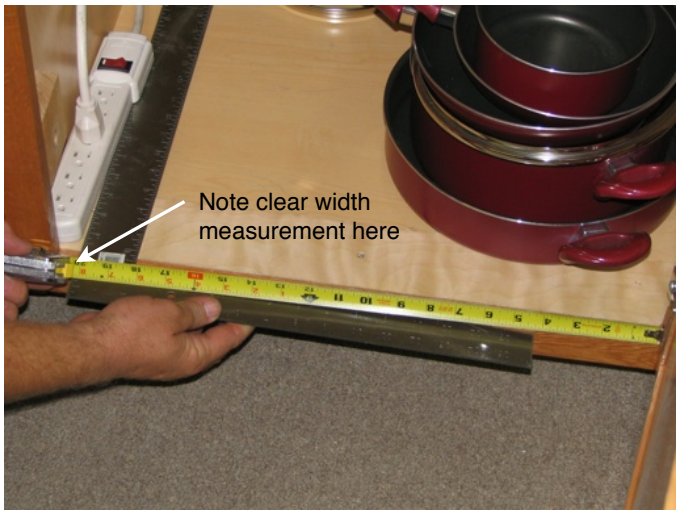
3. For obstacles that may hang down from above or protrude off the back wall (i.e. pipes, valves, etc.) you can use a coping or jig saw and easily trim away part of the back of the slide-out to allow the obstacle to clear (see photo right).

4. DOOR PROBLEMS - When measuring the width, you need to consider first if the door opens all the way. Check this, as it should open at least 90 degrees to the opening. If the door knob itself or another door, or an appliance etc. prevents the door from opening all the way you will want to adjust the width measurement taken and then when installing the slide-out justify it to the opposite side of the opening. This way, when extended, the slide-out will not hit the partially closed door (see photo sequence next page).

The easiest way to measure and make this adjustment is to use a large right angle square, placing it against the front of the cabinet extending out and sliding it to the door.

Take the width measurement at the point that the right angle hits the door. It will become obvious that your slide-out can only be this wide.

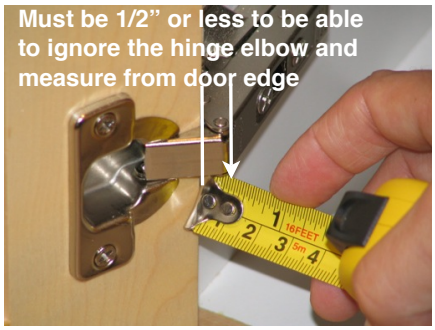
5. OBSTACLES INSIDE A CABINET - If an obstacle inside your cabinet will force you to reduce the width of the slide-out you install, you can simply use the same right angle square and measuring method used above. Just move the contents out of the way and place the right angle against the front of the cabinet with the other 'leg' of the angle protruding into the cabinet. Slide it over to the obstacle and take your widest width measurement at that point.

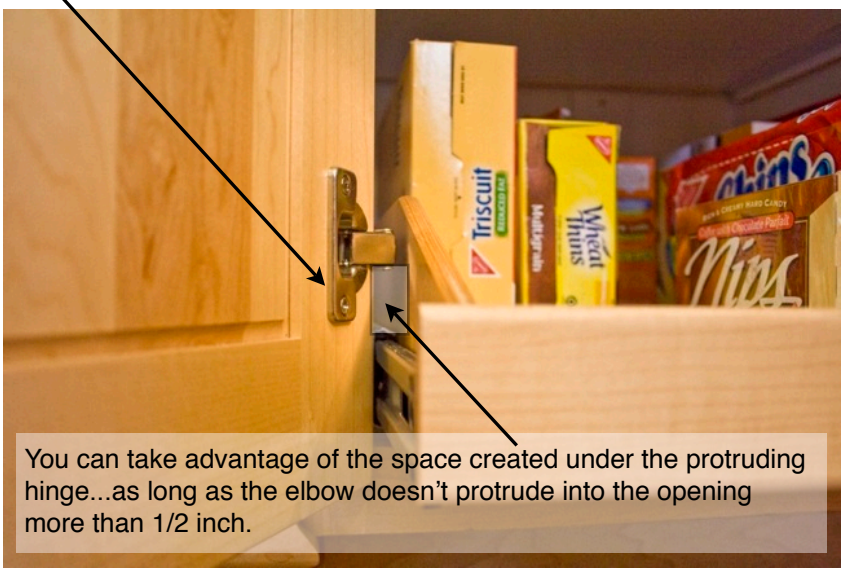


6. A FINAL WORD ON HINGES. If you have gotten this far you are demonstrating a keen attention-to-detail skill level!

Hidden or concealed hinges, which are also commonly called European style hinges, often times confuse people when they are measuring. Notwithstanding the above instruction, if you have this style hinge and you want the width of your slide-out for both levels in a traditional "under the countertop" base cabinet to be the same...you can take one additional measurement to determine if you can ignore the protruding hinge 'elbow' as far down as 2 1/2 inches off the floor or existing shelf of the cabinet.

Because our rail system is 1/2 inch thick and is mounted on the side of the slide-out, there is an actual **clearance zone** above the cabinet rail member of nearly 1/2 inch wide that the hinge elbow can occupy without binding on the slide-out. *If the bottom of the hinge elbow is **not lower** than 2 1/2 inches from the cabinets base, or shelf* for that matter, and it does NOT protrude into the opening more than 1/2 inch (see photo inset left)...you can measure the opening of the cabinet at the narrowest point ignoring the hinge altogether. This extra step will gain a little extra space, but more importantly will create visual symmetry between the upper and lower slide-outs. This applies to both sides/hinges in the case of a double door cabinet. The shelf side/rail of the slide-out will pass right by/under the hinge elbow!





You can take advantage of the space created under the protruding hinge...as long as the elbow doesn't protrude into the opening more than 1/2 inch.

Thank you for reviewing this guide. You are responsible for providing correct measurements for your made-to-fit organizers. If you make an error please contact Customer Service for assistance.